farmers. However, it has also been arranging disposal of various commodities in wholesale and consumer distribution activities on modest scale through its 5 retail outlets in Delhi, to meet the needs of employees at large, unlike Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar which have chains of retail outlets. The sale rates of most of the items being retailed for NAFED are either at par or lower than those of Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar. However, in a few commodities, its rates are marginally higher on account of quality, cost of procurement and locality considerations etc.

(c) and (d) During 1991 it came to the notice of Government that NAFED was marketing rice in packets without date of packing and maximum selling price on it. NAFED was, therefore, advised to indicate the same on the packets and it started implementing the practice.

(e) Tenders for purchase of various commodities are floated by Super Bazar on fortnightly basis in which NAFED also participates like any other supplier. The lowest tenderer is allowed to supply the goods at their godown on FOR basis. Payment to the supplier is made by cheque on fortnightly/Monthly basis.

Crops Damaged in Haryana by Locust Swarm

115. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the locust-storm coming from Pakistan has invaded Sirsa District of Haryana damaging the crops ;

(b) what measures were taken to drive away the locust storm ; and

(c) what is the extent of damage that has been caused to the crops and whether Government has any proposal to compensate the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) One small pink locust swarm coming from Pakistan escaped to Sirsa District of Haryana on 7th October, 1993. The swarm settled on the tree tops and as such there was no damage to the crops.

(b) The locus swarm was effectively neutralised within two days.

The following measures were taken to control the swarm :

(i) Deployment of special survey and control teams.

(ii) Mobilisation of pesticides and plant protection equipment for controlling locust.

(iii) Deployment of aircraft for aerial spraying of pesticides.

(iv) Coordination with the State Government in controlling locust.

(c) In view of the answer to the part (a), the question does not arise.

Development of Inland Fish Farming and Marketing in Karnataka

116. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government has submitted a proposal for development of the infrastructure for inland fish farming and marketing ;

(b) whether as per the State Governmnet's proposal, the Centre would reimburse 50 per cent of the subsidy being taken by the State to fish farmers ; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider decentralising the functioning of the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries and delegate more powers to the States for development of minor fishing harbours and landing Centres ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No proposal has been received from the State Government of Karnataka